

AO 91 (Rev. 11/11) Criminal Complaint

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

District of New Mexico

FILED
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO

MAY - 1 2025

MITCHELL R. ELFERS
CLERK OF COURTUnited States of America
v.
Viridiana Mar PEREDA-Zertuche

Case No. 25-1027 MJ

Defendant(s)

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

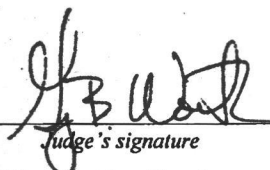
I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of April 27, 2025 in the county of Dona Ana in the
State and District of New Mexico, the defendant(s) violated:

<i>Code Section</i>	<i>Offense Description</i>
Count 1: 8 USC 1325(a)(1)	Entry or attempted by an alien into the United States at a time or place other than as designated by immigration officers.
Count 2: 50 USC 797	Penalty for violation of security regulations and orders
Count 3: 18 USC 1382	Entering military, naval, or coast guard property

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. On or about the date of April 24, 2025 in the county of Hidalgo in the State and District of New Mexico, the defendant violated 8 U.S.C. § 1325(a)(1) EWI (Misdemeanor), 18 U.S.C. 1382 (Misdemeanor) (Entry of Military Property for Any Purpose Prohibited by Law), 50 U.S.C. 797 (Class A Misdemeanor) (Penalty for Violations an offense described as follows:

☒ Continued on the attached sheet.
Complainant's signatureDavid Kraft, Agent
Printed name and titleElectronically submitted and telephonically sworn to
before me:Date: 05/01/2025City and state: Las Cruces, New Mexico
Judge's signatureGregory B. Wormuth, Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge
Printed name and title

U.S. v. Viridiana Mar PEREDA-Zertuche

Criminal Complaint

COUNT 1: On April 27, 2025, Border Patrol Agents from the Santa Teresa, New Mexico Border Patrol Station encountered the defendant in Dona Ana County, New Mexico. The defendant was questioned as to her citizenship to which she stated that she was a citizen and national of Mexico, illegally present in the United States. Agents determined the defendant illegally crossed the boundary between the United States and Mexico on April 27, 2025, approximately two- and one-half miles east of the Santa Teresa, New Mexico Port of Entry. The defendant did not present herself through a lawful Port of Entry; therefore, she was not admitted or paroled by an Immigration Officer.

COUNT 2: Title 50 United States Code 797 prohibits the willful violation of any defense property security regulation. Section 797 defines a “defense property security regulation” as a property security regulation that pursuant to lawful authority--

(a)(2)(A) shall be or has been promulgated or approved by the Secretary of Defense (or by a military commander designated by the Secretary of Defense or by a military officer, or a civilian officer or employee of the Department of Defense, holding a senior Department of Defense director position designated by the Secretary of Defense) for the protection or security of Department of Defense property”

* * *

(a)(3)(A) relating to . . .the ingress thereto or egress or removal of persons therefrom.

The term “Department of Defense property” means property subject to the administration or in the custody of the Department of Defense. On April 15, 2025, the Department of Interior transferred Federal lands including the approximately 60-foot strip of land contiguous to and parallel with the international border between the United States and Mexico (the “Roosevelt Reservation”) in Doña Ana, Luna and Hidalgo Counties in New Mexico to the jurisdiction of the Department of the Army. *See* Public Land Order No. 7963. On April 18, 2025, the Secretary of the Army assigned the above-described Federal lands to United States Army Garrison Fort Huachuca for use as National Defense Areas (hereinafter NM National Defense Areas). U.S. Army General Order No. 2025-10. On April 18, 2025, the military commander at Fort Huachuca issued a security regulation designating the NM National Defense Areas as both a restricted area and a controlled area under Army Regulation 190-13 prohibiting the unauthorized entry into the National Defense Areas.

On April 27, 2025, when illegally entering the United States from Mexico in Dona Ana County, New Mexico, Defendant willfully violated the security regulation prohibiting unauthorized entry of property subject to the administration or in the custody of Fort Huachuca by his unauthorized entry into the NM National Defense Areas. On April 24, 2025, signs were posted in the NM National Defense Areas stating in both English and Spanish that this is a restricted area, and that unauthorized entry is prohibited.

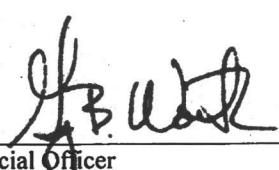
Based on the facts alleged in this criminal complaint, there is probable cause to believe that Defendant violated 50 U.S.C. § 797 by willfully violating a security regulation or order prohibiting unauthorized entry onto the NM National Defense Areas.

COUNT 3: On April 15, 2025, the Department of Interior transferred Federal lands including the 60-foot strip of land contiguous to and parallel with the international border between the United States and Mexico (the "Roosevelt Reservation") in Doña Ana, Luna and Hidalgo Counties in New Mexico to the jurisdiction of the Department of the Army. *See* Public Land Order No. 7963. On April 18, 2025, the Secretary of the Army assigned the above-described Federal lands to United States Army Garrison Fort Huachuca for use as National Defense Areas. U.S. Army General Order No. 2025-10. On April 18, 2025, the military commander at Fort Huachuca designated the above-described area (hereinafter NM National Defense Areas) as a Controlled Area as defined in Army Regulation 190-13. In chapter 6, AR 190-13 provides: "Army installations ... are restricted areas. At a minimum, the type of restriction is the controlled level." AR 190-13 also defines "controlled area" as a "type of restricted area in which access to the general public is denied, unless certain entry controls are met," and "restricted area" as an "area defined by an established boundary to prevent admission, unless certain conditions or controls are met, to safeguard the personnel, property, or material within."

On April 27, 2025, when Defendant was apprehended by U.S. Border Patrol, Defendant did not have authorized access from the U.S. Army to enter the NM National Defense Areas. Based on the location of Defendant's apprehension by U.S. Border Patrol, the Defendant illegally crossed the international border with Mexico into the United States through the NM National Defense Areas.

On April 24, 2025, signs were posted along the NM National Defense Areas stating in both English and Spanish that this is a restricted area, and that unauthorized entry is prohibited.

Based on the facts alleged in this criminal complaint, there is probable cause to believe that Defendant violated 18 U.S.C. 1382 by entering a military reservation, post, fort, yard, station or installation, the NM National Defense Areas, for a purpose prohibited by law, specifically illegal entry into the United States.



Signature of Judicial Officer



Signature of Complainant

Kraft David D.
Filing Agent